

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has required an election of a single invention for prosecution on the merits. The Examiner has identified the following groups of claims:

Group I - Claims 1-12 and 17-20, drawn to a connecting system in a stent, classified in class 623, subclass 1.34;

Group II - Claims 13-16, drawn to a process of making a connecting system in a stent, classified in class 29, subclass 282.

The Examiner maintains that Groups I and II do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-12 and 17-20.

The outstanding Office action was electronically transmitted on 23 July 2008. The Examiner set a shortened statutory period for reply of 1 month from the notification date. Therefore, no extension of time or accompanying fee is believed to be due in making this response. Nevertheless, the Applicants hereby make a conditional petition for an extension of time for response in the event that such a petition is required. No fees are believed to be due with this response. However, in the event that a fee for the filing of his response is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 15-0450.

Respectfully submitted,

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